

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF VITAL STATISTICS. YEAR 1939.

Preliminary Report of the Government Statist on Vital Statistics for the year 1939, which are subject to slight revision when finally checked. 1938 particulars are given in parentheses. A detailed analysis of the Statistics will be given when the final summary is published in the Statistical Register.

Two outstanding features for 1939 were the increase of 299 marriages in the last 4 months of the year, the total increase for the year being 181, and the increase of 264 total deaths and of 14 infant deaths in January - the month of excessive heat - with a net increase for the year of 200 total deaths and 48 infant deaths.

I. POPULATION of the State on 30th September 1939 was 597,112 (593,259), increase 3,853.

Natural Increase Year 1939 - 3,879 (3,871) increase 8.

Migration - Loss for 9 months to 30th Sept. 1939 - 962 (765).

The information for the last three months is not yet available, but will have been affected by the departure of soldiers.

II. MARRIAGES - 5,670 (5,489) increase 181 on the record of the previous year, and an increase of 2,601 over the low figure of 1931. The rate per 1,000 of mean population was 9.51 (9.26), being the highest rate since 1913, except for 1920 which was abnormal - due to the marriages of returned soldiers. For information re denominations, &c.- See Bulletin No. 9.

III. BIRTHS - 9,618 (9,410). The number of Births registered had fallen from 11,492 in 1927 to 8,270 in 1935. There has been an increase each year since 1935, the total for 1939 being 9,618 (9,410), an increase of 208 on 1938 and of 1,348 on 1935, but still about 2,000 below the annual average of the years 1910-29. The crude birth rate was 16.14 (15.88).

SEXES. Males 4,987 (4,863), Females 4,631 (4,547) representing 107.69 (106.95) males to every 100 females.

EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS - 273 (268), the rate being equivalent to 2.84 (2.85) per 100 births, the lowest rate since 1893.

LEGITIMATIONS 28 (12), ADOPTIONS 150 (102), STILL BIRTHS 263 (285).

PLURAL BIRTHS. Twins 87 (79) sets, Triplets 2 (2).

IV. DEATHS - 5,739 (5,539) were registered during the year, an increase of 200 on the previous year. Rates per 1,000 of the mean population were 9.63 (9.35). Commencing with 1922 there had been a general, though irregular, fall in the death rate until 1933, when the rate of 8.44 was the lowest on record. The rates for the last 6 years have been higher again, though irregular.

SEXES. Males 3,116 (2,917), Females 2,623 (2,622).

V. INFANTILE DEATHS - 335 (287). There was an increase of 48 in the number of deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, the numbers being 335 (287) and the infantile death rate 34.83 (30.50). The rate for the previous year had been the lowest ever recorded in the world, and even the higher rate of 34.83 for 1939 is probably the lowest except for New Zealand. The rate in this State is only about half the rate 20 years ago, and one third of the rate around 1900.

V. INFANTILE DEATHS (continued). Under 1 week the deaths were 165 (155), 1 week and under 1 month 26 (44), 1-5 months 95 (55), 6-11 months 49 (33).

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH -- Premature birth 99 (84); congenital malformations 36 (34); injury at birth 22 (30); congen. debility 19 (18); other diseases of Infancy 28 (27); diarrhoea & enteritis 31 (18); pneumonia 30 (37); whooping cough 12 (1); excessive heat 9 (-).

VI. CAUSES OF DEATH.

Principal causes of death and rates per 10,000 of mean population.

Disease	PERSONS		RATES	
	1939	1938	1939	1938
Diseases of the heart	1,309	1,199	21.96	20.24
Cancer & other malignant tumors	705	769	11.83	12.98
Tuberculosis (all forms)	225	218	3.78	3.68
Cerebral haemorrhage, softening, &c.	553	568	9.28	9.59
Pneumonia, Lobar-, Broncho-, &c.	273	327	4.58	5.52
Bronchitis (all forms)	64	74	1.07	1.25
Other diseases of resp. system	137	121	2.30	2.04
Nephritis-Acute and chronic	259	259	4.35	4.37
Diabetes mellitus	144	140	2.42	2.36
Puerperal causes	38	44	.64	.74
Congen. debility, malformations, &c.	216	208	3.62	3.51
Senility	294	289	4.93	4.88
Suicides	65	72	1.09	1.22
Violent deaths (ex. suicides)	368	300	6.17	5.06
Diarrhoea and enteritis	54	37	.91	.62
Whooping Cough	16	1	.27	.02
Diphtheria and croup	30	26	.50	.44
Influenza	24	13	.40	.22
Typhoid Fever	-	6	-	.10
Appendicitis	36	39	.60	.66
Hernia, intestinal obstruction	57	47	.96	.79
Cirrhosis of liver	25	22	.42	.37
Tetanus	7	2	.12	.03
All other	840	758	14.09	12.80
TOTAL	5,739	5,539	96.29	93.49

Increases are noted for Diseases of the Heart 1,309 (1,199), Tuberculosis 225 (218), Diarrhoea and Enteritis 54 (37), Leucaemia &c. 29 (25), Tetanus 7 (2), Whooping Cough 16 (1), Measles 11 (-), Influenza 24 (13).

Decreases are noted for Cancer 705 (769) - see Remarks next page - Cerebral Haemorrhage &c. 553 (568), Pneumonia 273 (327), Puerperal Causes 38 (44), Acute Poliomyelitis 4 (20), Typhoid - (6), Bronchitis 64 (74).

In addition to the 74 deaths definitely classed to Excessive Heat (see below), it was shown as a contributory cause in many other cases, and was probably a contributory cause in other cases even though not specified. During January the deaths from Heart Disease were 126 (74), Senility 41 (15), Nephritis 35 (19), Cerebral Haemorrhage &c. 59 (31), with Diarrhoea 6 (2) and Alcoholism 4 (-).

VII. EXTERNAL VIOLENCE. There were 72 more accidental &c. deaths 7 less suicides and 4 less homicides in 1939 than in 1938. Total accidental &c. deaths were 367 (295), chief causes being :- Excessive Heat 74 (1), Falls 53 (80), automobiles 99 (99), burns 16 (15), drowning 25 (22), railways and tramways 24 (13), other transport 10 (17), firearms 6 (7).

VIII. TUBERCULOSIS, CANCER, HEART DISEASES AND NEPHRITIS.
 Except for irregular movements since 1930, the rate per 10,000 of mean population for tuberculosis has been showing a heavy continuous fall, the rate for 1939 being less than half of the rate 20 years ago. Cancer had been showing a fairly continuous rise, but during the last few years the rate has been fluctuating, that for 1939 showing a substantial decrease on the three previous years. The increase in latter years is not so serious as it would appear from the crude death rate, for most cancer deaths are of older persons, and these now constitute a much larger proportion of the population.

Period	Tuberculosis		Cancer		Heart		Nephritis	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Mean								
1920-24	382	7.55	476	9.41	541	10.69	217	4.29
1925-29	364	6.49	555	9.90	590	10.53	257	4.59
1930-34	297	5.14	653	11.29	806	13.94	267	4.62
1935-39	239	4.05	710	12.03	1,136	19.25	264	4.47
Year								
1935	260	4.44	610	10.43	1,029	17.59	274	4.68
1936	235	4.00	740	12.60	1,101	18.74	252	4.29
1937	256	4.35	725	12.31	1,041	17.67	276	4.69
1938	218	3.68	769	12.98	1,199	20.24	259	4.37
1939	225	3.78	705	11.83	1,309	21.96	259	4.35

IX. DEATHS - AGES. During 1939, 33 (23) persons died 95 years of age and over - males 13, females 20. Four males and 2 females were over 100 years of age, being 1 - 100, 1 - 102, 1 - 103, 1 - 105 and 2 - 106.

X. SUMMARY RETURN.

The following return shows the number of births, deaths and marriages and the rate per 1,000 of mean population, and the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

Period	Births		Marriages		DEATHS			
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.86
Year								
1935	8,270	14.14	4,845	8.28	5,163	8.83	289	34.95
1936	8,911	15.17	5,182	8.82	5,464	9.30	277	31.09
1937	8,985	15.25	5,340	9.06	5,247	8.91	297	33.05
1938	9,410	15.88	5,489	9.26	5,539	9.35	287	30.50
1939	9,618	16.14	5,670	9.51	5,739	9.63	335	34.83

XI. INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED TO BOARD OF HEALTH.

Increases are noted for Whooping Cough 2,931 (184), Influenza 246 (42), Measles 6,157 (85), Scarlet Fever 525 (510), Erysipelas 96 (78), Puerperal Fever 64 (50), Pulmonary Tuberculosis 334 (300).

Decreases are recorded for Poliomyelitis Anterior Acuta 4 (284), Diphtheria 643 (772), Typhoid Fever 16 (33).

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